

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

NEA-10 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /109 W

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R 281658Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7082

INFO CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 12309

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, US, UK, GW, GE, UR, WB

SUBJECT: RESPONSIBILITIES ALONG FRG-GDR BORDER

REF: (A) USAREUR MESSAGE 2416242 JULY 73; (B) BONN  
A-397 OF 6/20/73

1. REVIEW OF REFTEL (A) BY EMBASSY INDICATES NEED FOR  
CLARIFICATION OF LIMITED NATURE OF UK INQUIRY REPORTED  
IN REFAIR (B).

2. BRITISH FRONTIER SERVICE (BFS) CONSISTS OF 30-35  
CIVILIAN UK NATIONALS TRAINED AS GAMEKEEPERS, MANY OF  
THEM NOT FAR FROM RETIREMENT AFTER AVERAGE OF 25 OR MORE  
YEARS OF SERVICE. BFS HAS WALKED AND WATCHED THE  
BRITISH ZONAL BORDER SINCE 1945. SERVICE HAS HAD  
INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF BORDER AND HAS BEEN ABLE INFOR-  
MALLY TO ARBITRATE DISPUTES BETWEEN FRG BORDER GUARDS  
AND THEIR GDR EQUIVALENTS, IN EFFECT PUTTING SOME  
MATTERS UNDER WATCHFUL EYE OF AN ALLIED PRESENCE. SINCE  
THE RELATIONS CONVENTION THE BFS IS CONSIDERED BY UK  
EMBASSY TO HAVE CONTINUED ITS FUNCTIONS IN TACIT DERO-  
GATION OF THAT CONVENTION, AND THE BRITISH NOW FEEL THAT  
THE BFS ROLE COULD IN EFFECT LAPSE WITH CONCLUSION OF  
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WORK OF FRG-GDR BORDER COMMISSION.

3. WITH IMPENDING RETIREMENT OF NUMEROUS MEMBERS OF SERVICE, THE EVENTUAL CONCLUSION OF WORK OF FRG-GDR BORDER COMMISSION, AND ABSENCE OF LEGAL BASIS FOR BFS PRESENCE, UK IS SEEKING INFORMALLY TO SOUND OUT FRG ON ITS SHORT-AND LONG-TERM ATTITUDE TO CONTINUATION OF SERVICE, WHICH WOULD BE DEPENDENT ON FRG CONSENT (REF(B)). UK READINESS TO DISCONTINUE BFS UNLESS FRG SEES CONTINUED USEFULNESS FOR IT IS WITHOUT RELATION TO CONTINUED MILITARY PATROLLING OF FRG-GDR BOUNDARY BY UK TROOPS.

4. IN LIGHT OF LIMITED NON-MILITARY FUNCTION OF BFS, WE CURRENTLY SEE NO GRAVE POLITICAL OR OTHER IMPLICATIONS IN POSSIBILITY THAT SERVICE MAY EVENTUALLY BE DISCONTINUED. HOWEVER, WE HAVE INDICATED INTEREST IN BEING KEPT INFORMED AND HAVING OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS. UK EMBASSY WILL EVENTUALLY RAISE MATTER IN BONN GROUP, AND THIS WOULD AFFORD OPPORTUNITY FOR FULL REVIEW OF QUESTION.

5. EMBASSY INTENDS TO DISCUSS WITH UK EMBASSY PRECISE LEGAL BASIS, IF ANY, FOR US AND UK MILITARY PATROLLING ALONG FRG/GDR BORDER. WE REPEAT, HOWEVER, THAT BFS DISCUSSION IS COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO AND DOES NOT AFFECT QUESTION OF MILITARY BORDER PATROLS.  
HILLENBRAND

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973BONN12309  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS HILENBRAND  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** BONN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730812/aaaaaaign.tel  
**Line Count:** 87  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** (A) USAREUR MESSAGE 2416242 JULY 73;  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <14-Sep-2001 by garlanwa>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RESPONSIBILITIES ALONG FRG-GDR BORDER  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PBOR, US, UK, GE, GC, UR, WB  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005